(b) whether orders have not been issued to concerned departments to ensure quick payment to all pensioners whose pension have been stopped for one reasons or the other; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof V

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN I HE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M \L-LIKARJUN) : (a) The Pension Scheme ./as made applicable to those Cantonment Ecord Employees who retirei after 1-5-7G. Those who retired prior to 1-5-76 were paid Cos n-butory Provident Fund and other teimi ml benefits as applicable to them. Tne Go/i 'u-ment had received a letter recommeiA ling extension of the Pension Scheme to I *yat* Cantonment Board Employees who retired prior to 1-5-76 from a Member of the K; ya Sabha. After considering the matter he Hon'ble Member was informed that this 'ill not be possible.

(b) and (c) There are standing instructions to ensure quick disposal of cases related to grant of post-retirement benefits to ttie employees. The progress of timely release of pension to retired Cantonment Board employees is being monitored regularly.

Purchase orders for DMJ boots

2566. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : V PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of purchase order-; for iup ly of DMS boots and shoes issued by the .*A* gs of armed forces during the first six monl 1994-95;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cost an; .1; sis and installed capacity availability reportc *i* by DGQA in this regard has been completely ignored by the forces;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Cert[1] al Government Undertakings are being excluded from getting such purchase orders from Tie defence forces;

(d) whether orders to Ordnance Equipmc it Factory have decreased; and

(e) I ic^s and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN T! <E MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIK ARJUN : (a) An order for quantity ?.C X) pairs of boots at the rate of Rs. 227. *6i* v as placed by the Naval Headquarters on a private firm.

(b) the Naval Headquarters carry out their own cost analyses and capacity verification of the Firms before placing an order.

(c) No, Sir, Central Government Undertakings are free to participate in the tender and purchase orders are placed on them keeping in view rates quoted by them and the Government orders issued in this regard. According to the orders presently in force, if the price quoted by PS Us is within 10% of the lowest valid price bid, purchase preference may be granted to the Public Enterprise concerned provided it agrees to make supply at the lowest valid bid rate.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Shortcomings in MBT Arjun

2567. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MAL HOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd Octooer, 1994 under the caption "Defence but Arjun is not ready for battle*', and

(b) If so, the reasons for the Arjun tank still *iot meeting tne requirement of the Army and the steps taken to remove the shortcomings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MAL-L1KARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Army has already given its in-principle acceptance for induction of Main Battle Tank ARJUN for Service-use. Further ex ploitation trials by the troops on pre-produc tion series ARJUN tank are in progress. The data generated and observations made by the user-service are continuously analysed to make the desired improvement, so that the produc tion model is a state-of-the-art tank. ARJUN tank is expected to be productionised as soon as final go-ahead is given by the Army on completion of these trials. <'*

Delay in procurement by Ministry of Defence

2568. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MAL HOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in